

part of the term of a patent issuing out of this application which extends beyond the life of U.S. Patent No. 5,181,556, which issued out of the parent application. Such a paper will be prepared and filed in the next few weeks.

The claims have been rejected as unpatentable under 35 USC 103 over Lamont Jr. in view of Person or Fitch et al. Figure 8 of Lamont is specifically cited as showing the claimed system using argon and Person and Fitch et al. are cited to show that the use of helium would be obvious.

The Examiner is asked to reconsider this rejection in view of the comments which follow. Lamont it is submitted is concerned with gas conductive heating or cooling. In such a system the article being treated, in Lamont a wafer, is brought as close as possible to the heat sink to make efficient, and possibly operative, the cooling or heating process. The claims in the Lamont patent make this point clear. For example, claim 1 at lines 22 and 23, speaks of "pushing together" the article and the heat exchange surface. The next independent claim, claim 11 at line 12 speaks of the "body and article being forced together". In claim 19 the edges are in contact and the surfaces are in a close spacing relationship. Edge contact is to provide for containment of the gas therebetween (lines 63-68) in order to bring about gas conductive cooling or heating. Other claims in Lamont emphasize the same types of features which are meaningful in bringing about gas conductive heating or cooling. Additionally the specification makes clear that the wafer and the heat sink are brought together and then pressed toward each other. This is the function of

pressure plate 16 in Lamont. The description of this function appears throughout in the discussion of FIGs 7-9 at columns 17 and 18 (see for example col.18 lines 31-33).

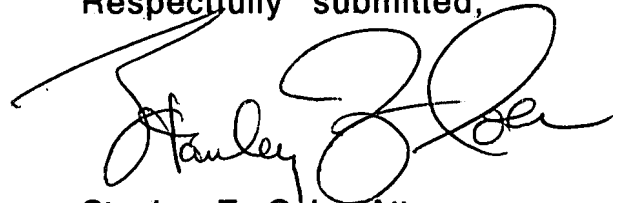
Distinct from the approach of Lamont is the technique used in the instant invention. The claims all refer to "convective/conductive" heat transfer. This is different from gas conductive heat transfer as taught in Lamont. This term is described at page 5 lines 23 -26 of the instant application. It is used throughout the instant specification. (See page 8, line 16.) Examples are given in support of the specific approach emphasized and desired by the inventors. The inventors in this case had a different set of constraints than Lamont and were forced to improve on a cooling approach with greater spaces than used by Lamont. In the instant case both sides of the article being processed must be kept out of contact with processing surfaces. For this reason applicant was forced to work with another technique of cooling. He could not tolerate the pushing together of Lamont or the containing of gas using closed edges and the claims effectively distinguish Lamont by specifying convective/conductive cooling as the mechanism of operation.

In addition a number of the claims in this application emphasize the application of the invention for cooling purposes. This is specifically found in apparatus claim 11 and now in all the method claims. This is due to the amendment that has now been made to claim 12, the independent method claim.

It is believed that the instant invention is patentable over Lamont notwithstanding that Person and Fitch et al. show the type of gas used by applicant. In this respect the Examiner is asked to recognize the differences between the teaching of Lamont based on conductive gas cooling and that of the instant invention using conductive/convective processes and indicate the allowability of the pending claims.

Finally, if there are any charges assessable in connection with the filing of this amendment, authorization is hereby granted to make such charges against applicant's attorney's deposit account which is 03-2450.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley Z. Cole", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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May 19, 1993